

C O P Y

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA LIAISON

17 March 1950

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 15, 1950, concerning certain articles appearing in the press about Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs. I do appreciate very much having the information in your letter and I can assure you, from personal observation, I know that one "can not believe everything one sees in the papers."

In this connection, although I am certain it is an unnecessary repetition, I should like to ask again if any more information is obtained from Fuchs, either by interrogation or by statement particularly concerning details of the atomic energy program as well as counter-espionage personalities and procedures, it would be most helpful for this Agency.

Thank you again for all your assistance.

With best personal wishes, believe me,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

R. H. Hillenkoetter
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington 25, D.C.

March 15, 1950

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
VIA LIAISON

Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building
2430 E Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

My dear Admiral:

It is believed that you may be interested in the following information concerning certain articles recently appearing in the press and purporting to reveal that Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs became known as a Soviet espionage agent through a connection with the Canadian espionage case occurring in 1945 and 1946.

The February 20, 1950, issue of Time Magazine contained an article concerning the preliminary hearing of Fuchs in London, England, captioned "Nash" which is the Russian word meaning "He is ours." This article commented that in the Canadian case it was found to be the practice of Soviet espionage agents to make a brisk notation "Nash" in Russian after the names of traitorous scientists who furnished information to the Soviet agents. After reporting the preliminary hearing of Fuchs the article ended with the statement that "Despite his harmless look, despite repentance of a sort, Dr. Klaus Fuchs still bore Communism's indelible brand -- Nash."

Subsequently, on March 2, 1950, the Washington Daily News contained an article dated that same day in London, England, stating in part that it had been revealed that Fuchs was trapped through a single word in a Russian agent's notebook "found in Canada last year." It was stated that the notebook contained Fuchs' name followed by the Russian word "Nash." It appears that on the same day, March 2, 1950, the Daily Express, London, England, carried an article stating that a code name scrawled in a diary was believed to have started detectives on the trail which led to the arrest of Fuchs. It was stated that when the authorities saw the code name penciled on one of the pages of the diary "memory was jogged." The article claimed that the same name had been mentioned in the case of Dr. Allan Nunn May, who presently is serving a sentence for giving away atomic secrets in Canada. The Daily Express article did not contain the word "Nash."

On March 10, 1950, the Washington Daily News contained an article entitled, "U. S. Got Tipped on Fuchs in 1946 But Nothing Was Done, Magazine Says." This article set forth information attributed to The Ensign, a Canadian news weekly. The information in this article was found to have also appeared in The Ensign of March 11, 1950, under the caption "Warning on Spy Clearly Ignored." This latter article, dated at Ottawa, Canada, began with the statement that "positive proof that the Canadian Royal Commission on espionage had ample reason to suspect that Dr. Klaus Fuchs was involved in the Russian spy ring -- and that these suspicions were passed on to the United States and British authorities in 1946 -- was disclosed to The Ensign last week." The article continues in part stating that until the previous week all that was publicly known, apart from Fuchs' trial confession, was that his name had appeared in a notebook belonging to one of the men accused in the Canadian spy trials of 1946.

The Ensign article parenthetically referred to a United Press cable from London regarding a Russian agent's notebook "found in Canada last year," containing Fuchs' name and the word "Nash," and characterized it as inaccurate. The article explained that this notebook belonged to Colonel Vasilii M. Rogov, Soviet Embassy director of atomic espionage; that it had been shown to Igor Gouzenko, Soviet Embassy cipher clerk who broke the spy ring; and that its contents had been reported to the Royal Commission four years ago.

The Ensign article then stated that "last week The Ensign learned that the Royal Commission knew in 1946 that Colonel Rogov revealed Fuchs' spy role to Igor Gouzenko. Both Fuchs and Dr. Allan Nunn May were considered for assignment to Canada to collect and report atomic secrets. Dr. May was selected, but Fuchs was held in reserve. Then Fuchs was sent to the United States in 1943."

For your information there is no basis in fact for the allegation that Dr. Fuchs became known as a Soviet espionage agent through connection with the Canadian case.

It is true that the Russian word "Nash" did appear in certain of the documents abstracted from the Soviet Embassy by Igor Gouzenko at the time of his defection on September 5, 1945. This notation appeared in connection with Soviet agents who were members of the Soviet Military Intelligence network then operating in Canada. The files of this Bureau reflect Fuchs' name was not contained in the documents abstracted by Gouzenko.

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It has been learned that the president of the company which publishes The Ensign is Mr. R. W. Keyserlingk, a well-known and reputable newspaperman in Canada who had taken a leading part in editing Gouzenko's book, "This is My Choice." It also has been learned that Gouzenko has shown a tendency to become an authority on matters beyond which he could rightly speak. Accordingly, it has been speculated that Keyserlingk may have interviewed Gouzenko concerning Fuchs and that Gouzenko may now be claiming to have given information before the Royal Commission which he had not previously mentioned and which was not in the records.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Edgar Hoover